Indo-China Joint Study Group on economic cooperation

1038. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China have agreed to expedite the establishment of the Joint Study Group on economic cooperation;

(b) if so, Government's strategy to implement the agreement; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (c) During Prime Minister's visit to China in June, 2003, the two sides agreed to set up a compact Joint Study Group (JSG) composed of officials and economists to examine the potential complementarities between the two countries in expanded trade and economic cooperation. The JSG would also draw up a programme for the development of India-China trade and economic cooperation for the next five years, aimed at encouraging greater cooperation between the business communities of both sides.

Meeting of a Minister with Israeli Prime Minister

1039. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fisheries Minister of Kerala had a meeting with the Israeli Prime Minister while he was on a visit to the country;

(b) if so, whether necessary permission from competent authorities were sought by the Minister for the meeting;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government find any breach of protocol in the conduct of the Minister; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) No.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.